

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

EA-13 IO-03 DLOS-06 COA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 SPC-03 L-03 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01

EB-03 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7381

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4173

LIMDIS

DEPT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR UN NO

SUBJECT: PRIORITY EFFORT TO DEFEAT LOS INVITATION FOR PRG AND GRUNK

REFS: A. OSLO 4162

B. STATE 222028

C. STATE 221351

D. STATE 219689

E. STATE 216882

F. OSLO 4159

G. STATE 222475

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1. OUR RENEWED DEMARCHE ON THE QUESTION OF INVITING THE PRG TO ATTEND THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAS LEFT FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND SOREL TROUBLED, BUT THERE IS NO SIGN OF GIVE IN THE NORWEGIAN DECISION TO ABSTAIN. ONLY A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE NORWEGIAN VOTE MAY BE CRUCIAL WOULD BE LIKELY TO PRODUCE A NEW REEXAMINATION OF NORWAY'S POSITION.

2. I WENT THROUGH BOTH THE PRG AND THE KHMER ISSUES WITH FRYDENLUND THIS AFTERNOON (NOVEMBER 12) AND LEFT WITH HIM TALKING POINTS DRAWN FROM REFS B THROUGH E. TO TREAT THE SCANDINAVIAN (INCLUDING NORWEGIAN) ARGUMENT THAT THERE ARE "TWO AUTHORITIES" IN SOUTH VIETNAM (CF. REF G), I ALSO WENT OVER THE POINTS MADE BY DR. KISSINGER IN HIS JANUARY 24 PRESS CONFERENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT REFERENCE IN THE PARIS AGREEMENTS TO "TWO PARTIES" IN SOUTH VIETNAM DOES NOT MEAN THERE ARE TWO GOVERNMENTS OR THAT THERE IS ANY DISPUTE THAT THERE IS A SINGLE ENTITY CALLED SOUTH VIETNAM. SINCE NORWEGIANS POINT OUT THEY ARE GIVING AID TO BOTH PARTIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, I POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE PRG AND TREATING IT AS A STATE. FINALLY, I STRESSED THAT TRYING TO BE "NEUTRAL" BY ABSTAINING IS IN EFFECT OPTING FOR PRG ADMISSION TO THE LOS CONFERENCE. IT ALSO ENCOURAGES THE APPLICATION OF INCREASINGLY SUBJECTIVE AND CONTROVERSIAL CRITERIA OF MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONFERENCES, UNDERMINING THEIR SUPPORT AND EFFECTIVENESS. -- AN ARGUMENT TO WHICH THE NORWEGIANS ARE SENSITIVE.

3. SEVERAL OF THESE WERE POINTS FRYDENLUND HAD NOT CONSIDERED BEFORE AND HE SAID HE APPRECIATED THE LOGIC OF THEM; HE MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE NOT TO GIVE THE NORWEGIAN LEFT NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO REOPEN THE "VIETNAM WOUND." I TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER I COULD NOT, OF COURSE, SECOND GUESS THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ITS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, BUT THAT I WONDERED WHETHER HE WAS NOT MISTAKEN IN THINKING THAT PLACATING THE LEFT IN THIS WAY WAS REALLY SERVING HIS EXPRESSED AIM OF STRENGTHENING US-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS.

4. FRYDENLUND WAS OBVIOUSLY DISTRESSED AND RELUCTANT TO TERMINATE THE CONVERSATION. YET HE SEEMED UNWILLING TO GRAPPLE WITH THE PROBLEM ON ITS MERITS AND WAS MORE INCLINED TO VIEW IT IN TERMS

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OF WHETHER THE NORWEGIAN VOTE WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. HE HAD BEEN TOLD JUST BEFORE HE RECEIVED ME THAT IT WOULD NOT--BUT HE UNDERTOOK TO CALL NEW YORK AFTER OUR CONVERSATION FOR A FRESH READING ON THE VOTE PROJECTION.

5. MY REMARKS ON KHMER REPRESENTATION DREW NO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

6. COMMENT: ON CAMBODIA, I CONTINUE TO THINK THERE IS NO PROSPECT FOR CHANING THE TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN POSITION OF ABSTENTION. AS FOR THE PRG ISSUE, THERE IS AT LEAST A POSSIBILITY THAT, IF FRYDENLUND WERE CONVINCED THAT THE NORWEGIAN VOTE WERE CRUCIAL, HE WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SWITCH THE NORWEGIAN VOTE FROM ABSTAIN TO "NO." ASSUMING THE VOTE REMAINS EXTREMELY CLOSE, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR USUN TO CHECK WITH THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION TO SEE THAT ITS REPORTING ON THE VOTE COUNT IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN PREDICTIONS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED (FOR USUN): WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LATEST VOTE COUNT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE AND WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT YOU COMPARE NOTES WITH THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION.

BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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